

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5677

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11499R

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC,IT

SUBJECT: BELGIAN REACTION TO EC COMMISSION 1976-77 FARM PRICE
PROPOSALS

1. REACTION OF MAJOR BELGIAN FARM GROUPS TO EC COMMISSION 1976
FARM PRICE PROPOSALS AVERAGING 7.5 PERCENT STRONGLY NEGATIVE.
COPA (EC COMMITTEE OF FARM ORGANIZATIONS) SUPPORTED BY BELGIAN
COOPERATIVES PROPOSED AN AVERAGE 10.6 PERCENT INCREASE.

2. WHILE BELGIAN REACTION TO LOWER COMMISSION PROPOSAL PREDICTABLE,
BELGIAN FEEL SITUATION FURTHER AGGREGATED BY PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE
MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN AVERAGE
INCREASE OF ONLY 5.5 PERCENT THEY ARGUE PRODUCTION COSTS HAVE
RISEN SHARPLY AND COMMISSION ITSELF CALCULATED BELGIAN AVERAGE
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PRICE INCREASE SHOULD APPROXIMATE 8 PERCENT. ALTHOUGH PROPOSED

PRICE INCREASE VARY BY COMMODITY, BELGIANS APPEAR MOST CONCERNED ABOUT MILK AND WHEAT SECTORS.

3. IN INTERVIEW WITH A LEADING BELGIAN NEWSPAPER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LAVENS AGREED WITH FARM GROUPS THAT COMMISSION PROPOSALS TOO LOW GIVEN SHARP INCREASE IN PRODUCTION COSTS. HE FURTHER STATED EC INTERVENTION SYSTEMS FOR WHEAT AND POWDERED SKIM MILK NOT SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE PROBLEM AND SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

4. IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING BELGIAN FARM GROUPS, MINISTER ALSO DEFENDED CAP. WHILE AGREEING CAP SUPPORT COSTS SHOULD BE REDUCED, HE STATED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THESE COSTS HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED. HE FURTHER SAID CAP HAS ASSURED CONSUMERS ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AT STABLE PRICES.
RENNER

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